

monitor unit. As previously described, the display monitor unit allows rotation about three separate axes to accommodate a wide range of viewer orientations. Independent rotation about each axis allows the unit to have a multiple of possible positions. For example, one position may include the combination of base 12 rotated from first base position 20' (FIG. 2) to second base position 20" or 20''' (FIG. 2) and arm 14 rotated from stowed arm position 22' (FIG. 3) to deployed arm position 22" or 22''' (FIG. 3). In another position, base 12 may be rotated from first base position 20' (FIG. 2) to second base position 20" or 20''' (FIG. 2) and screen 16 rotated from first screen position 24' (FIG. 4) to second screen position 24" (FIG. 4). Another possible combination includes arm 14 rotated from stowed arm position 22' (FIG. 3) to deployed arm position 22" or 22''' (FIG. 3) and screen 16 rotated from first screen position 24' (FIG. 4) to second screen position 24" (FIG. 4). As a further example, a combination may include base 12 rotated from first base position 20' (FIG. 2) to second base position 20" or 20''' (FIG. 2), arm 14 rotated from stowed arm position 22' (FIG. 3) to deployed arm position 22" or 22''' (FIG. 3), and screen 16 rotated from first screen position 24' (FIG. 4) to second screen position 24" (FIG. 4). The examples provided are not meant as limiting combinations, but rather illustrations of the adaptability and adjustability of the display monitor unit. Additional intermediate and extended positions are contemplated. Once positioned, the base, arm and screen may be secured to maintain the desired position.

FIG. 7 depicts the display monitor unit's adaptability. FIG. 7 is a side view of display monitor unit 10, where base 12 is mounted to an under surface of a cabinet 70. Cabinet 70 may be found in a kitchen, laundry or utility room and may have a cabinet skirt or trim piece 72 protruding beyond the end of the cabinet. Attention is drawn to the fact that base 12 is a generally planar structure.

The display monitor in FIG. 7 includes a storage configuration which is the result of arm 14 being in stowed position 22'. In stowed position 22', the arm pivots such that arm 14 and screen 16 are flush with cabinet skirt 72, thereby obscuring the display monitor unit from view. However, in deployed position 22'', the arm is pivoted about axis B. Furthermore, the base may be pivoted about axis A, and the screen may be rotated about axis C to accommodate the orientation of the viewer. In the depicted embodiment, the display monitor unit is shown deployed at 22'', where arm 14 has been pivoted about axis B approximately 110 degrees.

The screen in the deployed position of FIG. 7 may accommodate a viewer who is standing or is positioned above the horizontal plane of the display screen unit's mounting. However, it is also contemplated that display monitor unit 10 may be mounted above a viewer with corresponding adjustments of arm 14 and base 12 possible. Moreover, if necessary, screen 16 may be rotated about axis C approximately 180 degrees so that a projection from the screen is in an apparent upright position to a viewer.

A similar example of the display monitor unit's adaptability is found by referring back to FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, display monitor unit 10 is mounted on vertical reference surface 18, such as a wall. Depending on the height of the mount, base 12 may be rotated about axis A to orient screen

16 either upwardly or downwardly. Arm 14 may be pivoted about axis B so as to angle screen 16 appropriately outwardly from the wall. Screen 16 may be rotated about axis C to change the orientation of the screen to accommodate the position of the viewer.

As a third example of adjustability and adaptability, display monitor unit 10 may be mounted upright on a table or other horizontal surface including a night stand as shown in FIG. 1. Again, base 12 may be rotated about axis A to position screen 16 toward a viewer. Arm 14 may also be deployed about axis B, while screen 16 may be rotated about axis C. Rotation of the screen 90 degrees about axis C from first base position 22' (FIG. 4) orients screen 16 sideways in reference to the room. However, to a recumbent viewer, with their head positioned sideways, screen 16 will be in an apparent upright screen position.

Accordingly, while the present invention has been shown and described with reference to the foregoing preferred embodiments, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that other changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A multi-positional display monitor unit mountable on a reference surface, the display monitor unit comprising:

a base with a recessed perimeter portion;

an arcuate arm with opposing ends and a crest, where the ends of the arcuate arm are attached to the base such that the arcuate arm can be pivoted between a stowed position where the arcuate arm folds into the recessed perimeter portion generally flush with the base and a deployed arm position where the arcuate arm projects from the base; and

a display screen rotatably secured to the crest of the arcuate arm.

2. The display monitor unit of claim 1, where the base is circular.

3. The display monitor unit of claim 1, where the base includes a swivel portion adapted to rotate about a first axis that extends through the reference structure where the ends of the arcuate arm are attached to the swivel portion.

4. The display monitor unit of claim 1, where the arcuate arm, when in the deployed arm position, pivots outward from the base about a second axis which is parallel to the reference surface.

5. The display monitor unit of claim 1, where the display screen, when in the stowed position, lies generally flush against the reference surface.

6. The display monitor unit of claim 1, wherein the crest of the arcuate arm has a circular plate on which the display screen is rotatably secured.

7. The display monitor unit of claim 1, where the display screen is rotatable approximately 360 degrees about a third axis which extends through the display screen.

8. The display monitor unit of claim 1, where the display screen is rotatable approximately 270 degrees in one direction about a third axis that extends through the display screen and is rotatable approximately 90 degrees in the opposing direction about the third axis.